Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** An absorbent article including a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core having side portions interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent article being substantially vertically elongated and having an upstanding gather,

wherein said topsheet has a liquid shut-off region in a linear shape over the longitudinal direction, which prevents liquid migration within said topsheet beyond the liquid shut-off region, and said liquid shut-off region is located at an area outside the periphery of said absorbent core and is formed independent of a joined section between said topsheet and a sheet material for forming said upstanding gather,

wherein said topsheet is not thermally bonded to other sheet materials at said liquid shut-off region,

wherein the sheet material for forming the upstanding gather is disposed inward of the diaper from each side edge in the longitudinal direction of the diaper,

wherein a basal end of the upstanding gather is formed by joining the sheet material to an upper part of each side portion of the liquid-retentive absorbent core, and

wherein said topsheet extends outward beyond a basal end of said upstanding gather, at least a part of an extended section of said topsheet is joined to said backsheet, and said liquid shut-off region is located on the extended section of said topsheet.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. (Original) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said topsheet comprises a thermally fusible material, and said liquid shut-off region is formed by melting said thermally fusible material.

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Currently Amended)** The absorbent article according to claim 1 **[[4]]**, wherein said liquid shut-off region is located over the widthwise direction of said absorbent article at both or one of the longitudinal end portions of said absorbent article.

6. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The absorbent article according to claim 1,~~ An absorbent article including a liquid-permeable topsheet, a liquid-impermeable backsheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core having side portions interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent article being substantially vertically elongated and having an upstanding gather,

wherein said topsheet has a liquid shut-off region in a linear shape over the longitudinal direction, which prevents liquid migration within said topsheet beyond the liquid shut-off region, and said liquid shut-off region is located at an area outside the periphery of said absorbent core and is formed independent of a joined section between said topsheet and a sheet material for forming said upstanding gather,

wherein said topsheet is not thermally bonded to other sheet materials at said liquid shut-off region,

wherein the sheet material for forming the upstanding gather is disposed inward of the

diaper from each side edge in the longitudinal direction of the diaper,

wherein a basal end of the upstanding gather is formed by joining the sheet material to an upper part of each side portion of the liquid-retentive absorbent core,

wherein said topsheet extends outward beyond a basal end of said upstanding gather, at least a part of an extended section of said topsheet is joined to said backsheet, and said liquid shut-off region is located on the extended section of said topsheet, and

wherein said article does not have a waist upstanding gather, as said upstanding gather, at both or one of the longitudinal end portions of said article, and said liquid shut-off region is located over the widthwise direction of said article at the longitudinal end portion (s) where the waist upstanding gather is not located.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for manufacturing an absorbent article including a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet and a liquid-retentive absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said topsheet having a liquid shut-off region in a linear shape for preventing liquid migration within said topsheet, said method comprising preliminarily forming said liquid shut-off region at said topsheet and then arranging said topsheet at a predetermined location of said absorbent article, and said shut-off region being formed at an area outside the periphery of said absorbent core,

wherein said topsheet comprises a thermally fusible material, said liquid shut-off region is formed by melting said thermally fusible material, and

wherein said topsheet is not thermally bonded to other sheet materials at said liquid shut-off region.